



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Rare Earth Terminology Edition / Weledeh



Berm

Grind

Pyrometallurgy

Heavy Minerals

Organic Reagent

Hybrid Car

Alloying

Benign

Flotation

Solvent Extraction

Diverse languages and cultures in the North mean interpreters and translators have an important and challenging job. Whether it is explaining what has been said or what has been written, superior translation and interpretation helps people understand and it is important to good decision-making.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board strongly believes by building the capacity of interpreters and translators, communities, industry, government and regulators can be more confident that what is being communicated has been accurately translated.

At the Review Board's interpreter/translator workshops, the participants discuss English words and ways to explain them in their aboriginal language. The result is a glossary of terms, which contains the English concepts and ideas and the aboriginal-language equivalents.

This glossary of terms is the result of the Review Board's sixth translator workshop, which focused on developing terminology for the rare earth minerals industry. The Yellowknives Dene, with the support of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) generously sponsored the workshop.

The translations included in this glossary may require further revisions depending on how the words are used during interpretation and translation. Because the Review Board has not been able to work with and record each dialect, translators are encouraged to speak to elders and community experts for translations. The glossary provides spaces for interpreters and translators to write in their own translations, correct errors, or add general notes.

This glossary can be downloaded from the Review Board's website, in the reference library, at [reviewboard.ca](http://reviewboard.ca).



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## Decline or Ramp

Tunnel going underground starting from surface and gradually going deeper, at an angle that allows trucks to go up and down.

Ndè yìi gòʔa

### Back Translation

Tunnel into underground.

Notes:

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## Conveyor

A continuous belt running on wheels, often from underground and running up the ramp to bring material to the surface. Also used to move materials around a plant/mill.

*e.g.: a bit like an escalator without steps.*

Whe wet'à kwe hàzhe

### Back Translation

A belt to carry rocks out.

Notes:

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## Metallurgy

The engineering work that processes rock to obtain the valuable materials – minerals and metals. Also the engineering work to make alloys (mixtures) of metals or other elements.

Wet'à asii hàzhe

### Back Translation

Something to extract.

Notes:

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## Hydrometallurgy

Extraction of valuable elements from minerals using liquid like water and acid.

Ti wet'à asiì hàzhe

### Back Translation

Extracting mineral with water.

Notes:

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## Pyrometallurgy

Extracting of valuable elements from minerals using fire.

Kwe gihwhì xè satsò kaʔa hàzhe

### Back Translation

Extracting mineral by heating rocks.

Notes:

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## Mill/Plant

A part of a mine operation where metallurgy is done – the rock is crushed (milled) like wheat, and then the flotation occurs to separate the minerals.

Kwe nàedè k'è

### Back Translation

Where they crush rock.

Notes:

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## Fuel

*e.g.: gasoline, diesel*

### Back Translation

Notes:

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## Flotation

Using special compounds, a bit like soaps, that make bubbles, that minerals selectively float on.

Satsò kaʔa daele

### Back Translation

Mineral floating.

Notes:

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## Refining

Taking a mineral, compound or element, and purifying it – taking out the material that does not belong.

Satsò deèdlj hàzhe

### Back Translation

Extracting the real minerals.

Notes:

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## **Solvent Extraction**

Removing something (like metal) from a solution by putting a different solution in a contact with it, where the thing (like a metal) prefers to be.

Ti wet'à ełak'a nìizhe

## **Back Translation**

Separating minerals with liquid.

Notes:

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## **Recycling**

Convert waste into reusable material.

Wet'ànàts'etj

## **Back Translation**

Using again.

Notes:

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## **Mineral Concentrate**

Material consisting of the valuable minerals in a rock separated from minerals that have little or no value.

Satsò deèdlj hàzhe

## **Back Translation**

Taking mineral out.

Notes:

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## Heavy Minerals

Minerals that are heavier than a typical mineral. Technically, the same volume of a heavy mineral maybe as much as twice as heavy as a typical common minerals.

Satsò nedà kaʔa hàzhe

### Back Translation

Extracting heavy metal.

Notes:

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## Fault

A crack through the earth where two bodies of rock have moved relative to one another.

Kwe łats'jdlą /ehtà

### Back Translation

Crack in the earth.

Notes:

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## Acid

Water (solution), which has an excess of hydrogen ions. Can dissolve some substances. Can be strong or weakly acid. *e.g.: Lemon juice is acid, coca cola is acid.*

Nàediłj

### Back Translation

Toxic chemical.

Notes:

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## Neutral pH (water)

Water (solution) where there is an exact balance between acid (for example, coca cola) and alkali (for example, salt).

### Back Translation

Notes:

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## Organic Reagent

A chemical, usually liquid, that is made from a compound that has used to have it origin in a living material but now means that the main building block of the compound is carbon atoms.

Asiì nàeshe

### Back Translation

Something growing again.

Notes:

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## Inert or benign

A substance that, in less or more quantities, has a harmful effect on life (animal or plant). Toxicity may vary with amount. Some substances are toxic at almost any levels; others are only toxic at high amounts.

Asiì nàtso-le

Asiì weghòhòejj-le

### Back Translation

Notes:

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## Development

A project (industry or civil) that is advancing through studies or building. Usually implies that actual physical activity is taking place, such as building.

## Back Translation

Notes:

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## Environmental Stewardship

Taking responsibility for the environment to ensure that a physical activity (building, mining exploration) does not have undue negative effect on the environment. It suggests taking into account environmental issues all the time.

Ndè tsewìch'à wek'ets'edì

## Back Translation

Taking care of the land from damage.

Notes:

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## Hybrid Car

A car that has two motors – a normal gasoline motor, plus an electric motor and can be on the electric motor to save gasoline.

Tłeh eyits'q edìkò t'à etłe

## Back Translation

Running on gas and electricity.

Notes:

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## Renewable Energy

Any naturally occurring theoretically inexhaustible source of energy, as biomass, solar, wind, tidal, wave, a hydroelectric power that is not derived from fossil or nuclear fuel.

Ndè ts'q wet'à asiì ełte yagihtsj

### Back Translation

Making power from the land.

Notes:

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## Solar Energy

Energy derived from the sun in the form of solar radiation.

Sadekò nįdi wet'à edì hohłè

### Back Translation

Making energy from the sun.

Notes:

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## Stockpile

A supply of material in mining, usually a large supply of some rock or concentrate held in reserve for use during a shortage or during a period of higher prices. May be lower metal content than the normal mined rock.

Kwe whetłi (įda gogha)

### Back Translation

Stock piled.

Notes:

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## Wind Turbine

A turbine powered by the wind. Turbine: any various machines having a rotor, usually with vanes or blades, driven by the pressure momentum, or reactive thrust of a moving fluid, as steam, water, hot gases, or air, either occurring in the form of free jets or as fluid passing through and entirely filling a housing around the rotor.

Nįhts'i t'à satsò etłe

### Back Translation

Making power by wind.

Notes:

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## Alloying

To mix (metals or metals with non metals) so as to form an alloy.

Satsò ełeta kaʔa

### Back Translation

Mixing different metal together.

Notes:

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## Barge

A capacious, flat-bottomed vessel, usually intended to be pushed or towed, for transporting freight or passengers.

Elàcho / dechjkà elà

### Back Translation

Big boat / wood barge.

Notes:

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**Berm**

Bank of earth in mining usually placed in order to contain a body of water, tailings or other similar material. Often to prevent drainage from the material into the natural environment or to prevent water flowing into the body.

ʔeʔè

**Back Translation**

Fencing.

Notes:

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**Corduroy  
(as in drill trails, roads, etc.)**

Constructed of logs laid together transversely, as a road across swampy ground.

Ts'òa k'e dechj t'à etq hohłè ndè  
tsèwìch'à

**Back Translation**

A road built using logs.

Notes:

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**Driller/Helper**

The person in charge of a drill at an exploration project or mine.

Kwe nahdè

**Back Translation**

One who drills into rocks.

Notes:

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## Energy Efficient

Using energy (electricity, fuel) in such a way as not to waste it.

Edìkò eyits'ò tleh Wek'enehots'e ʔa

### Back Translation

Saving power and using efficiently.

Notes:

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## Environment

Ecology, the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at anytime.

Ndè

Ndè k'e asiì hazhọ ẹnda

### Back Translation

Everything on land.  
Everything that is alive.

Notes:

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## Gases of Air Quality

A measurement of the pollutants in the air; a description of healthiness and safety of the atmosphere.

*e.g.: Smog is a mixture of pollutants, principally ground-level ozone and produced by chemical reactions, that greatly affects air quality.*

Nìhts'l wexìts'ihjà

### Back Translation

Measuring air.

Notes:

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## Grind

To reduce to fine particles, as by pounding or crushing, bray, triturate, or pulverize.

Kwe nàgeèhde

### Back Translation

Grinding of rocks.

Notes:

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## Limestone

A sedimentary rock (formed in water, not in volcanoes) consisting predominantly of calcium carbonate, varieties of which are formed from the skeletons of marine microorganisms and coral; used as building stone and in the manufacture of lime.

Kwełè / tehtsàkw'ò / titł'agots'q

Titł'a ts'q kwe hohłe

### Back Translation

Creating rocks from shells creating rock from underwater organism.

Notes:

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## Permanent Magnet

A magnet that retains its magnetism after being removed from an external magnetic field. Magnet; a body, as a piece of iron or steel that possesses the property of attracting certain substances, as iron.

Satsò ełets'ò et'ìì

### Back Translation

Metals pulling toward each other.

Notes:

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**Reagent**

A substance that, because of the reactions it causes, is used in industrial processes and chemical analysis.

Asii̱ ʔeta ats'eh

**Back Translation**

Mixing substance.

Notes:

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**Spill Kit**

Tools and equipment, organized into a bag or case, used to clean up spills of industrial materials such a diesel fuel, grease, etc.

Wet'à sinàgoʔi goht'ò

**Back Translation**

A tool to clean up spill.

Notes:

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**Supply Chain**

Any sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of a commodity – for example iron, is mined, then transported to a steel mill where it is made into steel, and then the steel is sold to a car body and finally the car is sold to the final customer.

Kwe ts'ò satsò kaʔa t'à eʔek'eda  
asii1 hohʔè

**Back Translation**

Making chain with different in process.

Notes:

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## Technology (mining)

Knowledge that deals with the creation and use of technical means (machines) and their interrelations with life, society and the environment, drawing upon which subjects as industrial arts, engineering, applied science, and pure science.

Ndè eghàlada nàowo

Wek'ets'ezhọ

### Back Translation

Knowing the knowledge of working on the land Knowing it.

Notes:

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## Water Conservation

Careful use of water in order not to waste it. Such as reducing use, recycling.

Ti wek'enehots'e hɔà / Wet'ànàts'et'j

### Back Translation

Conserving water.

Using it again.

Notes:

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## Acid Plant

An industrial operation to make acid (see acid) – especially by burning sulphur to make sulphuric acid.

Nàediłj hohłe k'è/kò

### Back Translation

A place where they make acid.

Notes:

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## Communications

Means of sending messages, orders, etc., including telephone, telegraph, radio and television.

Wet'à ełexèts'ò gots'edo

Wet'à ełeyati ts'edi

### Back Translation

Talking to each other.

Giving each other message.

Notes:

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## Control Technician (in the mill)

The person in the mill part of a mining operation, who controls the operation, usually sitting at a computer screen where there is information about everything that is happening in the process.

Satsò etłe k'edidò

### Back Translation

A person who controls.

Notes:

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## Crush

To squeeze or pound into small fragments or particles as ore, stone, etc. – at a mine there is usually equipment with large steel plates (“jaws”) that smash the rock into small pieces, from where it goes into the rotating mill.

Kwe nàhdè

### Back Translation

Crushing rock.

Notes:

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## **Detonators**

Device, as percussion cap, used to make another substance explode. The detonator just makes a small explosion, which causes the big one.

Wet'à ehk'è

## **Back Translation**

Something you make explode.

Notes:

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